

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 NEA-11 /130 W

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R 251732Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2939

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN-EAST EUROPEAN VISIT SCHEDULE

1. FONOFF EAST EUROPEAN POLITICAL OFFICE HAS GIVEN US PREVIEW OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS IN PROSPECTS OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS BETWEEN ITALY AND VARIOUS EE COUNTRIES. MOST IMPORTANT TRAVELER SCHEDULED TO VISIT ROME IN NEAR FUTURE IS SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WHOSE LONG-DELAYED VISIT HAS NOW BEEN LAID ON, WE UNDERSTAND, FOR FEBRUARY 18-21. GROMYKO'S TRIP WOULD BE FIRST VISIT AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL SINCE SIGNING OF SOVIET-ITALIAN PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS IN OCTOBER, 1972. ALSO EXPECTED DURING SAME PERIOD (FEBRUARY 21-22) AT SOFIA'S REQUEST IS BULGARIAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PETKOV FOR GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. ON ITALIAN SIDE, FONOFF SOURCE SAID UNDER SECRETARY BENSI IS ANXIOUS TO VISIT EASTERN EUROPE AND HAD TENTATIVELY PLANNED A SWING THROUGH FIVE COUNTRIES IN JANUARY WHICH WAS PUT OFF WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD TRAVEL TO SYRIA AND IRAQ INSTEAD. BENSI STILL WANTS TO MAKE HIS EE TRIP AND MAY RESCHEDULE IT IN FEBRUARY ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOTHING FIRM AS YET. SOURCE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BENSI WOULD BE IN MOSCOW FEBRUARY 23 BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER AS PART OF HIS PROJECTED LARGER TRIP OR IN CONNECTION

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WITH SOME BILATERAL BUSINESS. BENSI (A SOCIALIST) HAS TAKEN ON

A VARIETY OF CHORES SINCE JOINING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT HIS
PRIMARY FOCUS HAS BEEN ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MORO WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A TRIP
TO HUNGARY AND BULGARIA. NO DATES HAVE BEEN SET BUT IT IS FORESEEON
THAT VISIT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN FIRST HALF OF 1974. VOLPE

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